

Carter Makes Excellent Choice in Carlucci

When President Carter last year proposed naming Frank C. Carlucci to be undersecretary of State for management, some unidentified Democratic leaders of Congress objected to the idea of appointing a member of former President Nixon's administration to such a key post. The objection was baseless. While Mr. Carlucci served the Nixon administration well, he did so as a dedicated professional who also had reflected excellence in his service during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Mr. Carter did not press the nomination at the time. But he has shown renewed faith in Mr. Carlucci by appointing him to become the No. 2 man in the Central Intelligence Agency. We applaud the President's judgment of Mr. Carlucci. Guided by his past performance, we are confident Mr. Carlucci will be as valued a public servant with the CIA as he has been with the State Department, the Office of Economic Opportunity and with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

We do not take this favorable view of Mr. Carlucci simply because he was

born in this region and grew up here. We have long been impressed by his response to challenges and integrity in his 21 years of government service. The most visible task he performed so far as this region is concerned was as director of the federal flood relief program in Wyoming Valley following the devastation left by Tropical Storm Agnes in June, 1972. And his efficiency and compassion in that post earned him commendations from all sides.

Mr. Carlucci was optimistic about the future of Portugal and events proved him right. He had the courage to tell Washington the situation as he saw it while ambassador to Portugal even though his view was contrary to that of the then secretary of State, Henry Kissinger.

President Carter was required to name a civilian to the No. 2 post at the CIA by a statutory requirement specifying a civilian deputy if a military man heads the agency. Upon confirmation by the Senate, Mr. Carlucci will serve under Adm. Stansfield Turner. The President has made an excellent choice in Mr. Carlucci.

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